

**STILLWATER COUNTY
COMMISSIONER MINUTES**

<p>Notice: These minutes reflect the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners. The official minutes are on file with the Clerk and Recorder MCA 7-4-2611(2)(b).</p>
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**REGULAR MEETING
March 15, 2022**

PRESENT Commissioners Tyrel Hamilton, Chair, Mark Crago, Steve Riveland, members, Heidi Stadel, Clerk & Recorder

Others Present: Kevin Ray, Road & Bridge; Marlo Pronovost, Stillwater County News; Jerry Friend, Treasurer; Stephanie Ray, Economic Development; Dana Weatherford, Weed District.

PLEDGE Commissioner Hamilton opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES February 15, 2022. Commissioner Crago **MOVED** to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Riveland **SECONDED**. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

CLAIMS None presented.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Commissioner announced that there are board openings for the Compensation Board, Board of Adjustments, Zoning Board, Board of Health and the DUI Task Force.

FILE ITEMS **Clerk & Recorder**
A) Notice of elections letter.

Sheriff
A) Report for the Month of February in the amount of \$150.00.

Commissioner Riveland **MOVED** to file the file items. Commissioner Crago **SECONDED**. No Discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR BUSINESS **Commission**
A) On-call engineering letter of engagement. Commissioner Crago **MOVED** to approve the on-call engineering letter of engagement. Commissioner Riveland **SECONDED**.
Discussion – Commissioner Crago explained that this is for Stahly Engineering. An RFP was done for on-call engineering services for a five-year contract. Stahly Engineering has been awarded as the on-call engineering firm and this is their letter of engagement to start the contract negotiations for the services. Motion passed unanimously.

B) Beaver Creek II Wind Farm.
a) Impact fee agreement. Commissioner Riveland **MOVED** to approve the Beaver Creek II Wind Farm impact fee agreement. Commissioner Crago **SECONDED**. Discussion – Commissioner Hamilton stated that the dollar amount is 1.5 percent of \$126,350,000.00 paid out at a half percent every year for three years. The last payment would be a true up payment affected by the construction costs. Commissioner Hamilton went on to state that the location of this wind farm is north of Jones Road and to the northwest towards the county line with Sweetgrass County. Jerry Friend asked how many turbines are there? Commissioner Crago replied that he believes there are 34 total. The turbines are bigger than the existing wind farm. Each facility is eighty megawatts. Motion passed unanimously.

b) Road use agreement. Commissioner Crago **MOVED** to approve the road use agreement. Commissioner Riveland **SECONDED**. Discussion – Commissioner Crago

explained that this is the county's protection for damages done to the roads by the wind farms. There will be a preconstruction review and assessment of the roads. There will also be a post construction assessment of the roads so the roads will be returned to the same or better condition. Commissioner Hamilton added that the assessment is being done by an independent party. Motion passed unanimously.

c) Weed agreement. Commissioner Riveland **MOVED** to approve the Beaver Creek II Wind Farm weed agreement. Commissioner Crago **SECONDED**. Discussion – Commissioner Crago explained that this protects the county from weed spread. It calls for weed management on-site and also for vehicles when they come and go from the site to insure there is no transfer of weed seed from outside areas. Commissioner Hamilton added that there is a gravel component regarding the gravel being utilized as well. Motion passed unanimously.

C) Beaver Creek III Wind Farm.

a) Impact fee agreement. Commissioner Crago **MOVED** to approve the impact fee agreement. Commissioner Riveland **SECONDED**. Discussion – Commissioner Hamilton stated that this is the same agreement as the previous one. Motion passed unanimously.

b) Road use agreement. Commissioner Riveland **MOVED** to approve the Beaver Creek III Wind Farm road use agreement. Commissioner Crago **SECONDED**. Discussion – Kevin Ray stated that the gravel spec has changed and needs to be put on the agenda. Jerry Friend asked if there is a projected start date for this project. Commissioner Hamilton replied that the projected start date is July of 2022. Commissioner Crago stated that once started they will work as long as weather allows and then do a winter shut down and start in the spring of 2023 and will be operational in October of 2023. Commissioner Hamilton stated that the impact fees will be paid out five days prior to the commencement of construction. Motion passed unanimously.

c) Weed agreement. Commissioner Crago **MOVED** to approve the weed agreement. Commissioner Riveland **SECONDED**. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

D) Resolution 2022-07 to adopt the 2021 update to pre-disaster mitigation plan for Stillwater County, Montana and City of Columbus. Commissioner Crago **MOVED** to approve the Resolution 2022-07 to adopt the 2021 update to pre-disaster mitigation plan for Stillwater County, Montana and City of Columbus. Commissioner Riveland **SECONDED**. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON COUNTY BUSINESS – None heard.

With no further comments heard the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

APPROVED BY: /s/ Tyrel Hamilton, Commissioner Chairman

ATTEST: Heidi L. Stadel, Clerk and Recorder